



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative John Fillmore (R-16)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Representative Fillmore Vows to Continue Advocating for School District Consolidation

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Representative John Fillmore, vice chair of the House Education Committee, today announced that he will continue to advocate for school district consolidation.

This session, Representative Fillmore introduced HB 2077, which would require that all school districts be unified by 2024. Under the bill, any cost savings created by consolidating and unifying school districts will be retained by the districts and used for classroom expenditures, with at least 25% directed to teacher salaries.

There are currently 207 school districts in Arizona, and Representative Fillmore estimates that the cost savings of consolidating and unifying districts could be up to \$500 million and would alleviate financial pressure on local school boards.

“While I’m disappointed that HB 2077 was not given a hearing this session, I will keep fighting to remove duplication and excess waste in our current system by consolidating and unifying our school districts,” said Representative Fillmore. **“Instead of the state mandating how school districts are consolidated, HB 2077 would maintain local control by letting parents, teachers, administrators, and local elected officials determine how to consolidate. The cost savings, which I estimate could be up to \$500 million a year, will be dedicated to classroom spending and teacher salaries.”**

“The state doesn’t need to raise taxes to get more money into the classroom – school district consolidation can achieve that goal by eliminating excessive and redundant administrative costs.”

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